(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the proposed amendment, inter alia, include that the offence be made a cognizable one, penalties be made more stringent and deterrent and the onus of proof of age of a child be on the employer.

Protection for the Rights of Labour in SEZ

2989. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is no protection for the rights of labour in Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to create more such special economic zones under the new Export-Import Policy for 2000-2001; and

(c) whether Government will take necessary measures to see that the rights of the labour are protected in these zones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) In the Export and Import Policy (1997—2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31/3/2000, the Government has announced the Policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the country with a view to provide an internationally competitive duty free environment for exports with minimum procedural requirement. The units in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will have to be a net foreign exchange earner but they shall not be subject to any pre-determined value addition or minimum export performance.

As far as labour matter is concerned, Special Economic Zones will be governed by the laws and rules of the country.

Growing problem of unemployment

2990. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether with economy registering a regular growth of 5 to 6 per cent every year; joblessness has out-stepped all economic growth;